Well, it’s that time of year again, the holiday season! A time for gatherings and fellowship and a time for good cheer. This year has been a tumultuous one, and I think it’s definitely time to sit back and be thankful for what we have. Holidays here in Molossia are almost always a family affair, since we’re a family nation. And because Molossia is a family nation, these traditions are important to us. So, as other activities wane in December, Christmas and other holidays celebrations reign supreme. This month we will celebrate Christmas around the National Christmas Tree in Government House, and then Boxing Day (with accompanying shepherd’s pie) the day after. And, like most, we will count down the minutes to the new year (even though our official new year celebration is also Chinese New Year). And of course we will be sending out our annual Christmas Cards again this year. So join us in this season of merriment and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
The Republic of Molossia is proud to welcome our newest native-born citizen, Kassandra Dawn Morrow. Kassandra is the seventh Molossian born since 1991, following the 31 October 2019 XLII birth of Liliana Grace Erickson. Kassandra arrived on 9 November 2020 XLIII, at 7:45 AM MST, weighing 4 Fenwicks, 5 Bascombs (3.6 kg) and measuring 3 Nortons (52 cm) in length. Kassandra was born at the Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, USA, but it was arranged that a pouch of dirt be placed under the delivery bed, so that she could be born over Molossian soil. The child of Molossians Jacques Morrow and Christina Coates-Morrow, Kassandra is the seventh grandchild of The President and First Lady. Our nation's population was 34; the birth of the Seventh Grandchild has raised it to 35, small but mighty - and still growing. Welcome to Molossia, Kassandra!

The first week of November is replete with Molossian holidays. First up was Día de Muertos or the Day of the Dead, celebrating departed Molossian family members. On 1 November Molossians gathered in Government House for a family remembrance, including food, stories and a "virtual" ofrenda, showing pictures of the departed on the television in the main room. Molossia is a family nation, and we strive to not forget those who have passed on. It was wonderful to trade stories and remember the deceased, never forgetting the wonderful people that they were.

2 November marked the 37th anniversary of the War with East Germany. Although no celebrations were held, considering that the war continues unabated, it still bore remembering that our struggle against the Communist aggressors goes on with no end in sight, although we are certain that someday Molossia will prevail in the struggle.

On 5 November Molossians celebrated our annual Guy Fawkes Night. Guy Fawkes Night, or Bonfire Night, is a popular event in Great Britain, dating back to the foiled Gunpowder Plot of 5 November 1605 when Guy Fawkes and 13 of his cohorts conspired to blow up Parliament and King James I of England. After the plot was uncovered and the conspirators executed, the 5th of November became an official holiday in Great Britain, adopted likewise a few years ago in Molossia, in recognition of our English roots. Prior to the holiday, Molossian citizens gathered in Government House and created their own Guys, to burn in effigy, including a large Guy and several small ones. That done, on the 5th of November the bonfire in Red Square was lit and Molossians gathered for the evening festivities. Dinner was bangers and mash, Molossian style, accompanied by hot apple cider and apples dipped in caramel. Then the Guy Fawkes rhyme was recited by the company, after which the Guys were committed to the bonfire, one by one, the President's going in last. The evening was concluded with gentle revelry around the fire until it became coals and the celebrants dispersed. A fine time was had by all and we all look forward to next year's Guy Fawkes Night!
**CHRISTMAS IN MOLOSSIA**

Christmas is one of the most important holidays of the Molossian year. It is for the most part a secular, rather than religious, with the focus being on the family, and giving and receiving. The celebration usually begins on Christmas Eve, with various holiday activities, including watching movies, baking (and eating) cookies, drinking eggnog and playing board games as a family. Christmas Eve dinner consists of our traditional meal of lasagna, reflecting the Italian heritage of Molossia. The evening ends with the reading of the "Night Before Christmas", and with tracking the arrival of Santa Claus using NORAD's website. Christmas morning, December 25th, begins early, as the family descends upon the presents beneath the National Christmas Tree. Once the present-opening ends, Christmas breakfast is made and served, and afterward everyone settles down to enjoy their gifts. Christmas dinner, usually ham, turkey and mashed potatoes, takes place in the later afternoon, largely wrapping up a lazy, relax-

**AROUND MOLOSSIA...**

Tours of our nation are currently planned on the following dates only:

- Saturday, 24 April 2021 XLIV at 10:00 AM PST (First Tour of 2020)
- May 2021 - TBD
- June 2021 - TBD
- July 2021 - TBD
- August 2021 - TBD
- September 2020 - TBD
- October 2021 - TBD (Last Tour of the Year)

**KRISTNASKO EN MOLOSSIA**

Kristnasko estas unu el la plej gravaj festoj de la Molossia jaro. Ĝi plejparte estas sekulara, prefere tiu religia, kun la fokuso sur la familio, kaj donanta kaj ricevante. La festo kutime komencigas je kristnaska vespero, kun diversaj feriaj agadoj, inkluzive de spektado de filmoj, bakado (kaj manĝado) kuketoj, trinkado de eggnog kaj ludado de tabul Ludoj kiel familio. Kristnaska vespermanĝo konsistas el nia tradicia manĝo de lasagna, reflektanta la italan heredaĵon de Molossia. La vespero finiĝas per la legado de la ”Nokto Antaŭ Kristnasko” kaj per sekvado de la alveno de Santa Claus per la retejo de NORAD. Kristnaska mateno, la 25-an de decembro, komencigas frue, ĉar la familio descendas sur la donacoj sub la Nacia Kristnaska Arbo. Post kiam la nuna malfierno finiĝas, kristnaska matemangono estas farita kaj servata, kaj poste ĉiuj eklogas por ĝui siajn donacojn. Kristnaska vespermanĝo, kutime ŝinko, melagro kaj purītaj terpomoj, okazas en la posta posttagmezo, plejparte envolvante maldingigantan tagon.

**The Molossian Navy**

**BE A PART!**

WWW.MOLOSSIA.ORG/NAVY.INDEX.HTML AND WWW.MOLOSSIA.ORG/MILACADEMY./INDEX.HTML
Hello all! December is here and after much turbulence 2020 is coming to an end. The holidays this year have been different than before, with social distancing and zoom get-togethers, but excitement for Christmas just might be exactly what we need right now. Everything this year has been doom and gloom and rightly so, Covid-19 is nothing to joke about. However, I think we can all use a little light at the end of the tunnel. The virus may not be over, but we can take a detour through Santa’s Village and bring some happiness back. Christmas and New Years will set the stage for saying goodbye to 2020 and hello to a promising new year. It’s no time to let our guard down, but we can celebrate within the safety of our own homes and share it virtually with the people that matter most.

This holiday season, see how you can step outside of the “gift” box and think of what you can do to help someone’s holiday feel more special than before. We all need a little light in our life and if we are lucky, they may even twinkle.

Thank you all and until next time,

Have a merry and bright holiday season.

~Adrianne